

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

Limited Resource

Program:	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Limited Resource		Applicant:
Final Ranking Score:		Address:
Planner:		Telephone:
Farm Location:		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the “EQIP Plan of Operations” result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
CROPLAND/ HAYLAND QUESTIONS - Answer if Landuse includes Cropland Choose either (a.) or (b.) - NOT Both [133 possible points]	
1. a. Are the practices in the Schedule of Operation part of an Irrigation Water Management Plan that results in a minimum reduction of water use of 35%?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. b. Are the practices in the Schedule of Operation part of an Irrigation Water Management Plan that results in a reduction of water use of less than 35%, but more than a minimum of 20% as determined by CT NRCS?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. c. Will the practices in the Schedule of Operations assist the producer to implement a Nutrient Management Plan that meets NRCS specifications for applying fertilizer according to June Nitrate testing?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. d. Does the contract application include 595, IPM or other practices to assist with the mitigation of the impacts of pesticide application? (For example, 386 Field Border, 390 Riparian Herbaceous Cover, 391 Riparian Forest Buffer)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. e. Will the practices in the Schedule of Operations include either No-Till (329) or Reduced Till (345) with the resource concern for soil quality or soil erosion? (goal: soil structure)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. f. Will the practices in the Schedule of Operations include one or more of the following practices that will integrate 2+ “families” of herbaceous plants (Warm Season Grass, Cool Season Grass, Warm Season Broadleaf and Cool Season Broadleaf): * 328 Conservation Crop Rotation, which specifies grass/legumes in rotation with a commodity crop 2+families); * 512 Forage Biomass Planting – with 3 or more ‘families in the seeding mix; * 342 Critical Area Planting with 3 or more families in the seeding mix in an orchard or similar	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. g. Will the practices in the Schedule of Operations include Cover Crop (340) or Crop Rotation (328) planned with either over-lapping harvest/seeding dates, or seeding within 4 weeks after crop termination and seeding within 2 weeks of harvest? (goal:soil structure and soil cover)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. h. Does the contract include practices 340 or 328 which will result in a condition where a living root is in the soil for the longest possible time? The conservation plan will set specific time frames: Maximum of 30 days between termination of cover crop and planting of cash crop. Maximum 2 weeks after harvest for planting of cover crop. Goal is 65% coverage with live root before ground freeze and 85% coverage when cover crop is terminated.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. i. Does an identified resource concern of sheet and rill erosion exist, and are practices in the Schedule of Operations expected to reduce the soil loss from above "T" to "T" according to RUSLE2?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. j. Does an identified resource concern of sheet and rill erosion exist, and are practices the Schedule of Operations expected to reduce the soil loss from above "T" to below "T" according to RUSLE2?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. k. Does the Schedule of Operations include supporting practices necessary to support a new or existing High Tunnel System (325) in order to address soil erosion which will as determined by a reduction in soil	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

loss T/A/Yr per RUSLE II before and after scenarios.	
FORESTLAND QUESTIONS - Answer if Landuse includes Forestland [133 possible points]	
2. a. Will the practices in the Schedule of Operations address the goal of adjusting baseline stocking rates, as documented in the Forest Management Plan. Practices could include either Thinning scenarios under 666 Forest Stand Improvement, or 612 Tree/Shrub Establishment.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Does the Schedule of Operations address ALL invasive species identified in the participant's forest management plan where the plan identifies the potential for successful control and/or containment?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Does the Schedule of Operations include practices to promote native species - either planting (612 Tree/shrub Establishment; 327 Conservation Cover; 390 Riparian Herbaceous Cover, 391 Riparian Forest Buffer) or planned natural regeneration that is supported in the Schedule of Operations by 490 Tree/Shrub site preparation and also has a seed source documented in the FMP and the CPA-52?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Will the practices in the Schedule of Operations enhance or provide wildlife corridors by linking existing habitat patches across owned or adjacent forestland?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. e. Will the practice(s) in the Schedule of Operations provide restoration of wetland habitats including wet meadows, marsh or shrub wetlands, forested wetlands, peat lands, vernal pools, floodplains and/or streams?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. f. Will the practices in the Schedule of Operations include replacement or removal of culverts, stone fords, or other in-stream structures with bridges, open-bottom culverts spanning bankfull width, or other designs using 396, Aquatic Organism Passage to promote fisheries and wildlife passage?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. g. Does the Schedule of Operations contain practices that will reduce sediment to a stream on the 303 (d) list such as: 395 Stream Habitat Improvement and Management; 390 Riparian Herbaceous Cover; 391 Riparian Forest Buffer or erosion control scenarios in 560 Access Road or 655 Forest Trails and Landings?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. h. Will the practices in the Schedule of Operations result in the installation of Riparian Forest Buffer(s) which meet or exceed CT NRCS standards (minimum 35' width)? This could be the creation of new buffers, or extension of existing buffers using practices such as 390 Riparian Herbaceous Cover, 391 Riparian Forest Buffer or 612 Tree/shrub Establishment.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. i. Does the Schedule of Operations include practices to stabilize ALL existing roads, trails, and landings on the treatment unit where a resource concern has been identified?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. j. Will the practices in the Schedule of Operations restore sensitive areas by relocating poorly sited roads using 655 Forest Trails and Landings or 560 Access Road AND 654 Road/trail/landing Closure and Treatment ?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
PASTURELAND QUESTIONS - Answer if Landuse includes Pasture Choose either (b), (c) or (d) Choose either (e) or (f) [133 possible points]	
3. a. Are the practices in the Schedule of Operations based upon a complete grazing plan that was written per CAP 110, Grazing Management Plan, criteria	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Are there enough grazing acres to meet 100% of the grazing requirements of the existing livestock at the time of application based on a completed grazing plan that meets CAP 110 criteria?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Is grazing likely to provide 75 -100 % of feed during the growing season, as calculated in a written grazing plan that meets or will meet CAP 110 criteria?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. d. Is grazing likely to provide 50 - 75% of feed during the growing season, as calculated in a written grazing plan that meets or will meet CAP 110 criteria?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. e. If 382, Fence is in the Schedule of Operations, will the fences be at 35 feet or more from ALL wetlands and water?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. f. If 382, Fence is in the Schedule of Operations, will the fences be between 35 feet and 10 feet from ALL wetlands and water?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. g. Does the Schedule of Operations include an appropriately size watering system per a completed grazing plan that meets or will meet CAP 110 criteria?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. h. Will the implementation of practice(s) within the Schedule of Operations result in the conversion of cropland to permanent perennial vegetation for livestock usage?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. i Does the Schedule of Operations include practices that will result in a condition that will meet or exceed the Pasture Condition Quality Criteria for Soil Compaction (score of 4 or greater)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. j. Does the Schedule of Operations include practices that will result in a condition that will meet or	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

exceed the Pasture Condition Quality Criteria for Soil Erosion (score of 4 or greater)?	
3. k. Does the Schedule of Operations include practices that will result in a condition that will meet or exceed the Pasture Condition Quality Criteria for Plant Diversity (score of 4 or greater)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Location	
1. a. Is this application located in a Public Water Supply Watershed or designated Aquifer Protection Area AND does it contain practices that address water quality?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. b. Does the contract application involves land that has been permanently protected through federal, state, local government programs or private land trusts?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Degree of Cooperation by Producer	
2. a. Have other Federal, State, local, or non governmental organization financial resources been committed to this project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. If the applicant has an existing EQIP contract, has it been, and is it now, on schedule and in full compliance?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Did the applicant successfully complete any past contract(s) in full compliance?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Is this the applicant's first EQIP application?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. e. Does the applicant have any contracts that are currently in violation (with a CPA-153) or have any contracts that were terminated for failure to comply with contract terms and provisions within the last 3 years?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Magnitude of Expected Benefits	
3. a. Does the contract application have energy as a secondary resource concern and are there practices that will reduce energy consumption?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Has the producer completed, or is currently enrolled in, an organic certification program recognized by USDA?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Will the practices in this contract directly benefit threatened or endangered species according to results obtained from the CT-DEEP NDDDB (Natural Diversity Database)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. d. Does the Schedule of Operations include practices that will benefit wildlife in general such as: 327 Conservation Cover, 393 Field Borders, 391 Riparian Forest Buffers, 380 Windbreak/Shelterbelt Development, 612 Tree/Shrub Planting, 395 IPM, 647 Early Successional Habitat Management, or the Deferred Grazing scenario under 528, Prescribed Grazing or the Delayed Mowing scenario under 511, Forage Harvest Management. These are designed to benefit pollinators or other wildlife? (refer to New England Pollinator Handbook for design recommendations)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Land Use:

Resource Concerns	Practices
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Ranking Score

Efficiency: Local Issues: State Issues: National Issues: Final Ranking Score:
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This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

NRCS Representative:	Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:
Signature Date:	Signature Date: